

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for enforcing an authority-designated access policy, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of authority-designated settings associated with a particular user in a particular transmittable data format at a particular authority-enabled system from among a plurality of authority-enabled systems, wherein said plurality of authority-designated settings designate levels of access to particular types of content as determined by a plurality of authorities to said particular user;

only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of a plurality of types of content provided by said particular authority-enabled system that are enabled according to said authority-designated settings received at said particular authority-enabled system, such that said particular authority-enabled system enforces an authority-designated access policy for a particular user at said particular authority-enabled system from among a plurality of authority-enabled system.

2. The method for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting a description of said selection of said plurality of types of content to a computer system to output said selection of said plurality of types of content to said particular user via an output interface

8 controlled by said ~~computer~~ system.

1 3. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 1, said method further  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 comparing said plurality of authority-designated  
5 settings received at said particular authority-enabled  
6 system with a plurality of advertisements at said  
7 particular authority-enabled system; and

8 AN controlling output of an authority-enabled selection  
9 of said plurality of advertisements to a plurality of  
10 output interfaces controlled by said particular  
11 authority-enabled system.

12 4. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
13 access policy according to claim 1, said method further  
14 comprising the steps of:

15 designating specialized staff instructions at said  
16 particular authority-enabled device according to said  
17 plurality of authority-designated settings; and

18 controlling output of said specialized staff  
19 instructions to an output interface controlled by said  
20 particular authority-enabled system that is accessible to  
a staff member.

1 5. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 1, said method further  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving a request for a access to a particular

5 type of content at said authority-enabled system from  
6 said particular user;

7 determining whether or not said particular type of  
8 content is included within said selection of said  
9 plurality of types of content; and

10 transmitting a record of authorization from said  
11 particular authority-enabled system to a portable data  
12 storage medium associated with said particular user, in  
13 response to determining that said particular type of  
14 content is included within said selection of said  
15 particular types of content.

16 6. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
17 access policy according to claim 5, said method further  
18 comprising the step of:

19 transmitting a record of denial of authorization  
20 from said particular authority-enabled system to said  
21 portable data storage medium, in response to determining  
22 that said particular type of content is not included  
23 within said selection of said particular types of  
24 content.

25 7. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
26 access policy according to claim 5, said method further  
27 comprising the step of:

28 transmitting an authorization for access to a check-  
29 point for accessing said particular type of content, in  
30 response to determining that said particular type of  
31 content is included within said selection of said  
32 particular types of content.

1 8. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 1, said method further  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving a selection of a plurality of user-  
5 designated preferences at said particular authority-  
6 enabled system, wherein said user-designated preferences  
7 are set by said particular user; and

8 filtering said selection of said plurality of types  
9 of content at said particular authority-enabled  
10 processing system according to said plurality of user-  
11 designated preferences.

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13  
14 9. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
15 access policy according to claim 1, said step of only  
16 allowing access for said particular user to a selection  
17 of said plurality of types of content that are enabled  
18 according to said authority-designated settings received  
19 at said particular authority-enabled system further  
20 comprising the step of:

21 only allowing access for said particular user to a  
22 selection of visual content that is accessible via said  
23 particular authority-enabled system.

24  
25 10. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
26 access policy according to claim 1, said step of only  
27 allowing access for said particular user to a selection  
28 of said plurality of types of content that are enabled  
29 according to said authority-designated settings received  
30 at said particular authority-enabled system further  
31 comprising the step of:

8           only allowing access for said particular user to a  
9           selection of audio content that is accessible via said  
10          particular authority-enabled system.

1          11. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2          access policy according to claim 1, said step of only  
3          allowing access for said particular user to a selection  
4          of said plurality of types of content that are enabled  
5          according to said authority-designated settings received  
6          at said particular authority-enabled system further  
7          comprising the step of:

8           only allowing access for said particular user to a  
9           selection of products that are accessible via said  
10          particular authority-enabled system.

1          12. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2          access policy according to claim 1, said step of only  
3          allowing access for said particular user to a selection  
4          of said plurality of types of content that are enabled  
5          according to said authority-designated settings received  
6          at said particular authority-enabled system further  
7          comprising the step of:

8           only allowing access for said particular user to a  
9           particular physical location that is accessible via said  
10          particular authority-enabled system.

1          13. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2          access policy according to claim 1, said step of only  
3          allowing access for said particular user to a selection  
4          of said plurality of types of content that are enabled  
5          according to said authority-designated settings received

6 at said particular authority-enabled system further  
7 comprising the step of:

8 only allowing access for said particular user to a  
9 selection of services that are accessible via said  
10 particular authority-enabled system.

1 14. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 1, said step of  
3 receiving a plurality of authority-designated settings  
4 associated with a particular user, further comprising the  
5 step of:

6 receiving said plurality of authority-designated  
7 settings associated with a particular user from a  
8 portable data storage medium associated with said  
9 particular user.  
10

1 15. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 14, wherein said  
3 portable data storage medium further comprises a portable  
4 computer system.

1 16. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 14, wherein said  
3 portable data storage medium further comprises a smart  
4 card.

1 17. The method for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 1, said step of  
3 receiving a plurality of authority-designated settings  
4 associated with a particular user, further comprising the  
5 step of:

6 receiving said plurality of authority-designated  
7 settings in an extensible mark-up language data format.

1 18. A system for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy, said system comprising:

3 means for receiving a plurality of authority-  
4 designated settings associated with a particular user in  
5 a particular transmittable data format at a particular  
6 authority-enabled system from among a plurality of  
7 authority-enabled systems, wherein said plurality of  
8 authority-designated settings designate levels of access  
9 to particular types of content as determined by a  
10 plurality of authorities to said particular user;

11 means for only allowing access for said particular  
12 user to a selection of a plurality of types of content  
13 provided by said particular authority-enabled system that  
14 are enabled according to said authority-designated  
15 settings received at said particular authority-enabled  
16 system, such that said particular authority-enabled  
17 system enforces an authority-designated access policy for  
18 a particular user at said particular authority-enabled  
19 system from among a plurality of authority-enabled  
20 system.

1 19. The system for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 18, said system further  
3 comprising:

4 means for transmitting a description of said  
5 selection of said plurality of types of content to a  
6 computer system to output said selection of said  
7 plurality of types of content to said particular user via

an output interface controlled by said computer system.

20. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said system further comprising:

means for comparing said plurality of authority-designated settings received at said particular authority-enabled system with a plurality of advertisements at said particular authority-enabled system; and

means for controlling output of an authority-enabled selection of said plurality of advertisements to a plurality of output interfaces controlled by said particular authority-enabled system.

21. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said system further comprising:

means for designating specialized staff instructions at said particular authority-enabled device according to said plurality of authority-designated settings; and

means for controlling output of said specialized staff instructions to an output interface controlled by said particular authority-enabled system that is accessible to a staff member.

22. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said system further comprising:



4 means for receiving a request for a access to a  
5 particular type of content at said authority-enabled  
6 system from said particular user;

7 means for determining whether or not said particular  
8 type of content is included within said selection of said  
9 plurality of types of content; and

10 means for transmitting a record of authorization  
11 from said particular authority-enabled system to a  
12 portable data storage medium associated with said  
13 particular user, in response to determining that said  
14 particular type of content is included within said  
15 selection of said particular types of content.

16 23. The system for enforcing an authority-designated  
17 access policy according to claim 22, said system further  
18 comprising:

19 means for transmitting a record of denial of  
20 authorization from said particular authority-enabled  
21 system to said portable data storage medium, in response  
22 to determining that said particular type of content is  
23 not included within said selection of said particular  
24 types of content.

25 24. The system for enforcing an authority-designated  
26 access policy according to claim 22, said system further  
27 comprising:

28 means for transmitting an authorization for access  
29 to a check-point for accessing said particular type of  
30 content, in response to determining that said particular  
31 type of content is included within said selection of said

particular types of content.

25. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said system further comprising:

means for receiving a selection of a plurality of user-designated preferences at said particular authority-enabled system, wherein said user-designated preferences are set by said particular user; and

means for filtering said selection of said plurality of types of content at said particular authority-enabled processing system according to said plurality of user-designated preferences.

26. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of said plurality of types of content that are enabled according to said authority-designated settings received at said particular authority-enabled system further comprising:

means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of visual content that is accessible via said particular authority-enabled system.

27. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of said plurality of types of content that are enabled according to said authority-designated settings received at said particular authority-enabled system further

comprising:

means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of audio content that is accessible via said particular authority-enabled system.

28. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of said plurality of types of content that are enabled according to said authority-designated settings received at said particular authority-enabled system further comprising:

means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of products that are accessible via said particular authority-enabled system.

29. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of said plurality of types of content that are enabled according to said authority-designated settings received at said particular authority-enabled system further comprising:

means for only allowing access for said particular user to a particular physical location that is accessible via said particular authority-enabled system.

30. The system for enforcing an authority-designated access policy according to claim 18, said means for only allowing access for said particular user to a selection of said plurality of types of content that are enabled

5 according to said authority-designated settings received  
6 at said particular authority-enabled system further  
7 comprising:

8 means for only allowing access for said particular  
9 user to a selection of services that are accessible via  
10 said particular authority-enabled system.

1 31. The system for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 18, said means for  
3 receiving a plurality of authority-designated settings  
4 associated with a particular user, further comprising:

5 means for receiving said plurality of authority-  
6 designated settings associated with a particular user  
7 from a portable data storage medium associated with said  
8 particular user.

9 32. The system for enforcing an authority-designated  
10 access policy according to claim 31, wherein said  
11 portable data storage medium further comprises a portable  
12 computer system.

1 33. The system for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 31, wherein said  
3 portable data storage medium further comprises a smart  
4 card.

1 34. The system for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 18, said means for  
3 receiving a plurality of authority-designated settings  
4 associated with a particular user, further comprising:

5 means for receiving said plurality of authority-

6 designated settings in an extensible mark-up language  
7 data format.

1 35. A program for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy, residing on a computer usable medium  
3 having computer readable program code means, said program  
4 comprising:

5 means for receiving a plurality of authority-  
6 designated settings associated with a particular user in  
7 a particular transmittable data format at a particular  
8 authority-enabled system from among a plurality of  
9 authority-enabled systems, wherein said plurality of  
10 authority-designated settings designate levels of access  
11 to particular types of content as determined by a  
12 plurality of authorities to said particular user;

13 means for only allowing access for said particular  
14 user to a selection of a plurality of types of content  
15 provided by said particular authority-enabled system that  
16 are enabled according to said authority-designated  
17 settings received at said particular authority-enabled  
18 system, such that said particular authority-enabled  
19 system enforces an authority-designated access policy for  
20 a particular user at said particular authority-enabled  
21 system from among a plurality of authority-enabled  
22 system.

1 36. The program for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 35, said program further  
3 comprising:

4 means for transmitting a description of said  
5 selection of said plurality of types of content to a

6 computer system to output said selection of said  
7 plurality of types of content to said particular user via  
8 an output interface controlled by said computer system.

1 37. The program for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 35, said program further  
3 comprising:

4 means for comparing said plurality of authority-  
5 designated settings received at said particular  
6 authority-enabled system with a plurality of  
7 advertisements at said particular authority-enabled  
8 system; and

9 means for controlling output of an authority-enabled  
10 selection of said plurality of advertisements to a  
11 plurality of output interfaces controlled by said  
12 particular authority-enabled system.

1 38. The program for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 35, said program further  
3 comprising:

4 means for designating specialized staff instructions  
5 at said particular authority-enabled device according to  
6 said plurality of authority-designated settings; and

7 means for controlling output of said specialized  
8 staff instructions to an output interface controlled by  
9 said particular authority-enabled system that is  
10 accessible to a staff member.

1 39. The program for enforcing an authority-designated  
2 access policy according to claim 35, said program further

3 comprising:

4 means for receiving a request for a access to a  
5 particular type of content at said authority-enabled  
6 system from said particular user;

7 means for determining whether or not said particular  
8 type of content is included within said selection of said  
9 plurality of types of content; and

10 means for transmitting a record of authorization  
11 from said particular authority-enabled system to a  
12 portable data storage medium associated with said  
13 particular user, in response to determining that said  
14 particular type of content is included within said  
selection of said particular types of content.

1 40. A method for managing access to content by a user,  
2 said method comprising the steps of:

3 receiving entries for a plurality of authority-  
4 designated settings from a plurality of allowable  
5 authorities to said particular user at a portable data  
6 storage medium associated with said particular user,  
7 wherein said plurality of authority-designated settings  
8 designate levels of access to particular types of  
9 content;

10 transmitting said plurality of authority-designated  
11 settings from said portable data storage medium to a  
12 plurality of authority-enabled systems, wherein each of  
13 said plurality of authority-enabled systems controls  
14 access to at least one type of content;

15 receiving and storing at said portable data storage  
16 medium an indication of authorization for said particular  
17 user to said at least one type of content controlled by  
18 one of said plurality of authority-enabled systems, such  
19 that authorization for content to said particular user is  
20 monitored at said portable data storage medium.

1 41. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said step of receiving entries for  
3 a plurality of authority-designated settings from a  
4 plurality of allowable authorities to said particular  
5 user at a portable data storage medium associated with  
6 said particular user, further comprising the steps of:

7  
8 comparing a particular authority from whom an entry  
9 for an authority-designated setting is received with said  
10 plurality of allowable authorities designated at said  
11 portable data storage medium; and

12 only storing said entry for said authority-  
13 designated setting at said portable data storage medium,  
14 in response to authorization of said particular authority  
15 in said plurality of allowable authorities.

1 42. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said step of receiving entries for  
3 a plurality of authority-designated settings from a  
4 plurality of allowable authorities to said particular  
5 user at a portable data storage medium associated with  
6 said particular user, further comprising the steps of:

7  
8 transmitting a request for access to a particular  
9 type of content from a portable computer system  
10 comprising said portable data storage medium to a remote



11 computer system accessible to one of said plurality of  
12 allowable authorities; and

13 receiving an entry for a one-time access to said  
14 particular type of content from said remote computer  
15 system by said one of said plurality of allowable  
16 authorities at said portable computer system.

1 43. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said step of transmitting said  
3 plurality of authority-designated settings from said  
4 portable data storage medium to a plurality of authority-  
5 enabled systems, further comprising the step of:

6 encrypting said plurality of authority-designated  
7 settings at a portable computer system comprising said  
8 portable data storage medium such that only a particular  
9 selection from among said plurality of authority-enabled  
10 systems are enabled to read said plurality of authority-  
11 designated settings.

1 44. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said step of transmitting said  
3 plurality of authority-designated settings from said  
4 portable data storage medium to a plurality of authority-  
5 enabled systems, further comprising the step of:

6 filtering said plurality of authority-designated  
7 settings at a portable computer system comprising said  
8 portable data storage medium such that only a filtered  
9 selection from among said plurality of authority-  
10 designated settings are transmittable to said plurality  
11 of authority-enabled systems.

1 45. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said step of receiving and storing  
3 at said portable data storage medium an indication of  
4 authorization for said particular user to said at least  
5 one type of content controlled by one of said plurality  
6 of authority-enabled systems,

7 receiving said indication of authorization that  
8 indicates said particular user was allowed access to said  
9 *A2* at least one type of content controlled by said one of  
10 said plurality of authority-enabled systems.

11 46. The method for managing access to content by a user  
12 according to claim 40, said step of receiving and storing  
13 at said portable data storage medium an indication of  
14 authorization for said particular user to said at least  
15 one type of content controlled by one of said plurality  
16 of authority-enabled systems,

17 receiving said indication of authorization that  
18 indicates said particular user was denied access to said  
19 at least one type of content controlled by said one of  
20 said plurality of authority-enabled systems.

1 47. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said method further comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 filtering said data stored at said portable data  
5 storage medium by a portable computer system according to  
6 said plurality of authority-designated settings, in  
7 response to receiving a request for data stored at said  
8 portable data storage medium from a particular authority  
9 from among said plurality of allowable authorities; and

10 only allowing said particular authority to access  
11 said filtered data according to access privileges  
12 provided to said particular authority.

1 48. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said method further comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 receiving a plurality of user-designated preferences  
5 by said particular user at said portable data storage  
6 medium; and

7 transmitting said plurality of user-designated  
8 preferences with said plurality of authority-designated  
9 preferences to said plurality of authority-enabled  
10 systems.

1 49. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said method further comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 receiving a selection of a plurality of products  
5 that are enabled for access by said particular user via

6 said authority-enabled system according to said  
7 authority-designated settings.

1 50. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said method further comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 receiving a selection of a plurality of media that  
5 are enabled for access by said particular user via said  
6 authority-enabled system according to said authority-  
7 designated settings.

1 51. The method for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 40, said method further comprising the  
3 steps of:

4 receiving a selection of a plurality of services  
5 that are enabled for access by said particular user via  
6 said authority-enabled system according to said  
7 authority-designated settings.

1 52. A system for managing access to content by a user,  
2 said system comprising:

3 means for receiving entries for a plurality of  
4 authority-designated settings from a plurality of  
5 allowable authorities to said particular user at a  
6 portable data storage medium associated with said  
7 particular user, wherein said plurality of authority-  
8 designated settings designate levels of access to  
9 particular types of content;

10 means for transmitting said plurality of authority-  
11 designated settings from said portable data storage

medium to a plurality of authority-enabled systems,  
wherein each of said plurality of authority-enabled  
systems controls access to at least one type of content;

A2 means for receiving and storing at said portable  
data storage medium an indication of authorization for  
said particular user to said at least one type of content  
controlled by one of said plurality of authority-enabled  
systems, such that authorization for content to said  
particular user is monitored at said portable data  
storage medium.

53. The system for managing access to content by a user  
according to claim 52, said means for receiving entries  
for a plurality of authority-designated settings from a  
plurality of allowable authorities to said particular  
user at a portable data storage medium associated with  
said particular user, further comprising:

means for comparing a particular authority from whom  
an entry for an authority-designated setting is received  
with said plurality of allowable authorities designated  
at said portable data storage medium; and

means for only storing said entry for said  
authority-designated setting at said portable data  
storage medium, in response to authorization of said  
particular authority in said plurality of allowable  
authorities.

A2 54. The system for managing access to content by a user  
according to claim 52, said means for receiving entries  
for a plurality of authority-designated settings from a  
plurality of allowable authorities to said particular

5 user at a portable data storage medium associated with  
6 said particular user, further comprising:

7  
8 means for transmitting a request for access to a  
9 particular type of content from a portable computer  
10 system comprising said portable data storage medium to a  
11 remote computer system accessible to one of said  
12 plurality of allowable authorities; and

13 means for receiving an entry for a one-time access  
14 to said particular type of content from said remote  
15 computer system by said one of said plurality of  
16 allowable authorities at said portable computer system.

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1 55. The system for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 52, said means for transmitting said  
3 plurality of authority-designated settings from said  
4 portable data storage medium to a plurality of authority-  
5 enabled systems, further comprising:

6 means for encrypting said plurality of authority-  
7 designated settings at a portable computer system  
8 comprising said portable data storage medium such that  
9 only a particular selection from among said plurality of  
10 authority-enabled systems are enabled to read said  
11 plurality of authority-designated settings.

1 56. The system for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 52, said means for transmitting said  
3 plurality of authority-designated settings from said  
4 portable data storage medium to a plurality of authority-  
5 enabled systems, further comprising:

6 means for filtering said plurality of authority-

7 designated settings at a portable computer system  
8 comprising said portable data storage medium such that  
9 only a filtered selection from among said plurality of  
10 authority-designated settings are transmittable to said  
11 plurality of authority-enabled systems.

1 57. The system for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 52, said means for receiving and  
3 storing at said portable data storage medium an  
4 indication of authorization for said particular user to  
5 said at least one type of content controlled by one of  
6 said plurality of authority-enabled systems,

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7 means for receiving said indication of authorization  
8 that indicates said particular user was allowed access to  
9 said at least one type of content controlled by said one  
10 of said plurality of authority-enabled systems.

1 58. The system for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 52, said means for receiving and  
3 storing at said portable data storage medium an  
4 indication of authorization for said particular user to  
5 said at least one type of content controlled by one of  
6 said plurality of authority-enabled systems,

7 means for receiving said indication of authorization  
8 that indicates said particular user was denied access to  
9 said at least one type of content controlled by said one  
10 of said plurality of authority-enabled systems.

1 59. The system for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 52, said system further comprising:

3 means for filtering said data stored at said  
4 portable data storage medium by a portable computer  
5 system according to said plurality of authority-  
6 designated settings, in response to receiving a request  
7 for data stored at said portable data storage medium from  
8 a particular authority from among said plurality of  
9 allowable authorities; and

10 means for only allowing said particular authority to  
11 access said filtered data according to access privileges  
12 provided to said particular authority.

13 60. The system for managing access to content by a user  
14 according to claim 52, said system further comprising:

15 means for receiving a plurality of user-designated  
16 preferences by said particular user at said portable data  
17 storage medium; and

18 means for transmitting said plurality of user-  
19 designated preferences with said plurality of authority-  
20 designated preferences to said plurality of authority-  
21 enabled systems.

22 61. The system for managing access to content by a user  
23 according to claim 52, said system further comprising:

24 means for receiving a selection of a plurality of  
25 products that are enabled for access by said particular  
26 user via said authority-enabled system according to said  
27 authority-designated settings.



1 62. The system for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 52, said system further comprising:

3 means for receiving a selection of a plurality of  
4 media that are enabled for access by said particular user  
5 via said authority-enabled system according to said  
6 authority-designated settings.

1 63. The system for managing access to content by a user  
2 according to claim 52, said system further comprising:

3 means for receiving a selection of a plurality of  
4 services that are enabled for access by said particular  
5 user via said authority-enabled system according to said  
6 authority-designated settings.